

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, July 24, 1895, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 10, rue Nitot. July 24, 1895. My dear Alec:

Your cable must have crossed mine yesterday. I am so sorry now that I sent mine. I am afraid you may have felt hurt on receiving it and I wouldn't have that even if I do leave my stone unturned. I wouldn't have you think for a moment that I don't want to see you as soon as possible and very much indeed. I am wondering if you guessed what my "special reasons" were? You cannot come to soon for me. Your paper from Flint came this morning, the nicest part was your handwriting. I hope now I may have some letters. I did not expect any from Flint, but I want them now very much.

I am getting along very nicely. I have some very good friends here. Mrs. Mauro and Miss Duncan. Now that Mrs. Ayers is away Miss Duncan just devotes herself to me and is the greatest help and company. We went shopping this morning and have nearly bought two rugs for the Washington house and portieres. You know you told me that I could take Trust money to furnish the house and Papa cabled I might spend twenty-five hundred dollars. I won't get very far with it because I always want the handsomest and most expensive things and would rather do without them altogether than get cheap ones.

I am terribly mortified that I have had to ask for more money. I know that I have not been extravagant or rather that I 2 have lived much more carefully than I have done for a long time, but things mount up so. I think most of my money has gone in cabs. Today for instance I spent twelve francs on cabs. That means no less than three hundred and sixty francs a month and I have spent much more, enough to buy me two of the dresses I calculated on while on the steamer.

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There, all this is not interesting to you. Miss Barrington showed me her photographs today, one of them was of the Capitoline Wolf so I told her about your sheep and their nipples and Mr. McCurdy's black and white single male. She said she would always think of your sheep and their nipples when she looked at the photograph.

Do you think it would be nice for me to meet you at Rouen and stay a day at that old town. I want very much to see it. It is on the way to Paris, two hours from it. If you think well of the idea don't have your tickets taken to Paris, but check your baggage on if you can. The children are at Moret, their month is not out until the 18th August. They are very happy there and write very bright letters. They come up tomorrow for the day to do some shopping. I hope I shall see increased fluency in the use of French.

I am going to write for the club now, so goodnight my dear. I will write again to the Gilsey House, New York. You might bring Daisy a camera, she wants one very much. Be sure it is an Eastman, the one you got for Mexico is not satisfactory.

Lovingly yours, Mabel.